

Upcoming Exhibition

The Body in Indian Art and Thought

6th March 2014 - 7th May 2014
Curated by Naman P. Ahuja

How does a civilization express its thoughts on death and rapture? Is one's place in the cosmos fated by destiny, or does a body have its own agency? And how are the values of men constructed differently from those of women? These questions are considered in this exhibition through multifaceted understandings ranging from representations of heroic, yogic, ascetic, seductive and dangerous bodies in a display of the richness of India's art and thought. The body and its representation is revealed not only as the subject of art, but as the keeper of the values, preoccupations and aspirations of times ancient, medieval and modern, popular as well as classical. The complex plurality of India emerges: which shows the diversity in geography, chronology, patronage, religion and art material that are present in every gallery of the exhibition.

After its successful showing at the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, Belgium, this exhibition will be shown at the National Museum, Delhi. It brings together 220+ artworks from 45 museums, archaeological institutes and private collections, in an exploration of the complex understandings of the 'Body'. Ranging from monumental stone sculptures located in the storerooms of provincial Indian small towns, to Chola bronzes from Tanjore, and manuscripts about magic painted for the Mughal Emperor Akbar from the library of the Nawabs of Rampur; the exhibition provides the spectator with a variety of artworks, many of which have never before been publicly exhibited, nor published.



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NM-BULLETIN



NATIONAL MUSEUM-New Delhi



Welcome

We are delighted to resume publication of the National Museum Bulletin. While this issue shares new initiatives that National Museum has taken in the last six months, we intend to publish the Bulletin as a Quarterly, which will inform readers on the significant developments of the quarter.

The main purpose of National Museum today is to make its outstanding collection, representing 5000 years of Indian art, more accessible to the public. Over the last few decades, the role of museums all over the world has undergone a paradigm shift, posing an important challenge to Indian museums which now need to innovate and acknowledge the needs of a contemporary audience.



Yogini Vrishanana, 10th century, Lokhari, Bundelkhand

In meeting these challenges, the past year (2013) saw many new initiatives with the opening of new galleries such as the Tanjore and Mysore Painting Gallery, the Wooden Art Gallery and the Decorative Arts Gallery; organization of exciting new temporary exhibitions such as the 'Rama-Katha', 'Safar-nama', 'the Tapis Moghal', the 'Musical Landscapes' and the first ever single object exhibition, the 'Yogini'. These exhibitions drew both, from the rich collections of the National Museum and from objects from other collections. The Musical Landscapes exhibition, for instance was curated by Ranjit Makkuni, a designer and musician who pulled together the idea of music and its experience through technology-powered displays. It also opened doors of the museum for new and creative talent showing at the premier museum of the country. The faculty and students of National Museum Institute were also involved in many of these projects.

The museum experience got better and richer for the public with the introduction of the much awaited Volunteer Guide Programmes – 'Path Pradarshak' and 'Yuva Saathi', which now run in several batches a day for adults and school groups respectively. In this project, National Museum was successful in involving enthusiastic volunteers coming from diverse backgrounds who have been specially trained by Curators and Experts to run the guided tours.

The Museum organized lectures, workshops and seminars to engage with professionals and museum practitioners. Educational programmes especially designed for children were also undertaken.

National Museum is now poised to enter into a dynamic phase with the promise of new ventures including re-opening of galleries, new exhibitions, publications and outreach activities. With better facilities and programmes on offer, we hope to involve larger sections of our society and encourage them to visit the Museum and engage with its collections.

Venu Vasudevan
Director General, National Museum
January 2014

New Galleries



NATIONAL MUSEUM- New Delhi

Tanjore and Mysore Paintings Gallery

National Museum re-opened the Tanjore and Mysore Paintings Gallery with paintings from the Tanjore and Mysore Schools of South Indian Paintings in May 2013. The new gallery has been curated by Dr. Daljit and Dr. Vijay Mathur, Curator, National Museum.

The important themes of Tanjore and Mysore Schools include paintings of Vaishnavism portraying images of Hindu Gods Krishna, Rama, Vishnu and his other incarnations, Lakshmi and other saints; of Shaivism portraying various forms of Shiva, Parvati, Karttikeya or Subramanya, Ganesha and other Shaiva deities; and portraits of various kings, saints and royal patrons.

Tanjore paintings, named after the ancient town of Tanjavur in Tamil Nadu employ real gold and silver foil, precious and semiprecious stones, beads, mirrors, and powdered metals

besides the use of primary colours – red, green, blue, black and white to depict key figures. The Mysore school of painting sprang in south Karnataka in the reign of Maharaja Mummudi Krishnaraja Wodeyar (1799-1868) present a wide variety, from murals to stylistic Mysore paintings on cloth, paper and wood.

88 paintings have been put on show at the gallery and some of the masterpieces include *Navneta Krishna* with Tanjore King Shivaji II, 1830 CE.; *Nataraja Shiva*, early 19th century; *Rama Pattabhisheikha*, early 19th century, Durbar of Serfoji II (1798-1833) and the Marriage ceremony of Shiva -Parvati and Sita-Rama, end 18th century.

The ornately gilt and decorated paintings from the Tanjore and Mysore Schools particularly attract visitors with their rich and jewel-like appearance. The lighting has been done carefully in the gallery so as to create a quiet and intimate experience and there is an audio-visual display of Tanjore and Mysore paintings.



New Galleries



New Galleries



USEUM-New Delhi



The new Decorative Arts Gallery, ground floor, National Museum

Decorative Arts Gallery

The Decorative arts gallery was refurbished and opened on 5th July 2013 by the Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch.

The Decorative arts collection at National Museum is a reflection of lifestyles of the Indian people from 16th to 20th century. These include both utilitarian and decorative objects hand crafted by master-craftsmen. They help in understanding the social, religious, economical, commercial and technological development of our society.

The new gallery curated by Smt. Anamika Pathak, Curator, National Museum, focuses on three main materials; ivory, jade and ceramic. Each medium is represented by a group of seven or eight showcases to portray the diverse nature of artefacts and the high quality of craftsmanship. The Ivory group highlights caskets, sandals, utilitarian artefacts and images of Hindu and Christian deities. The Jade section showcase utilitarian, armory and *huqqa* artefacts, while the glazed tiles, blue-white pottery and celadon items are in the ceramic group, which have been displayed for the first time.

Two themes; 'leisure/ ancient sports' and 'throne story', have been developed with the help of artefacts made of various materials besides the main three categories.



Mary with infant Jesus, Goa, 18th century
Carved and painted ivory, Decorative Arts Gallery

Some outstanding pieces like the 'Meditating Buddha' inside the lattice case and the '*Dashavatar* shrine' depicting ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu made of ivory, cloth painted '*Gyan chaupar*', silver 'tray' depicting Kaurava's court scene, five feet 'elephant tusk' carved with life scenes of Lord Buddha, Ivory Radha and Krishna, jade '*surahi*', 'armrest', '*chauri*' and the '*huqqa*' inscribed with the name of Mughal Emperor Jahangir and the 'white-blue ceramic ware' have been displayed.

New Galleries



Ganesa, Painted Wood, Wooden Art Gallery

Wooden Art Gallery

A set of eighty-two wooden artifacts, mainly from 17th to 20th century have been carefully selected and displayed in the refurbished wooden artefacts gallery that opened recently. The gallery showcases the rich wood crafting traditions of India.

Collections on display include decorative and utilitarian objects, architectural elements and sculptures. A square pillar with a capital of five feet height dated 9th century, is the earliest wood carving specimen in National Museum. Objects originating in Nepal, Tibet, Japan and China have also been put on display. The gallery has been curated by Smt. Anamika Pathak, Curator, National Museum,

The Ethnic Art Gallery: Tradition, Art and Continuity

The Anthropology Department of National Museum has an impressive collection of objects of ethnographic interest that has been acquired over the years through exploratory expeditions as well as valuable gifts from private collections.

National Museum will shortly be showcasing these collections in its new gallery called the Ethnic Art Gallery which is being curated by Smt. Anju Sachdeva, Deputy Curator, National Museum. It will capture the concept of 'Unity in Diversity', a concept that was envisaged by leading anthropologist Dr N. K. Bose in 1961 after an extensive survey of various cultures throughout the sub-continent. He came to the conclusion that within the sea of diverse cultures, there is a similar way of expression - a thread of continuity that binds them together.

The Ethnic Art gallery will showcase exquisite examples of tribal and folk art in order to promote and give recognition to an important yet neglected side of our heritage.



Peshwaz of Chamba's Rani Sahiba Baji
Himachal Pradesh, 20th century

Exhibitions



NATIONAL MUSEUM- New Delhi

The World of Khusrau

'The World of Khusrau' was an important exhibition organized in collaboration with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture during the Jashn-e-Khusrau festival in February 2013, which celebrated the many legends, attributions and contributions of Khusrau in his beloved place, the city of Delhi.

Amir Khusrau Dehlvi (1253-1325 CE) was one of the greatest poets of this region who lived in the period which saw a coming together of scholars, poets, artisans, Sufis, travelers, and merchants from Persianate Central Asia. He also saw the merging of two great civilizations and wove them beautifully in his literary works often surpassing the masters from Persia and Central Asia. The diverse range of Amir Khusrau Dehlvi's work in the field of culture, science and art provided an understanding of such trends in the 13th -14th century era and their continuity into present day India.

The exhibition included 22 art objects, including manuscripts and decorative art objects from the collection of National Museum. During the exhibition, a *Masnavi* recital by Ustad Jameel Ahmad was organized at National Museum Auditorium.

The Hon'ble Minister of Culture Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch inaugurated the exhibition on 22nd February 2013.



The World of Khusrau Exhibition



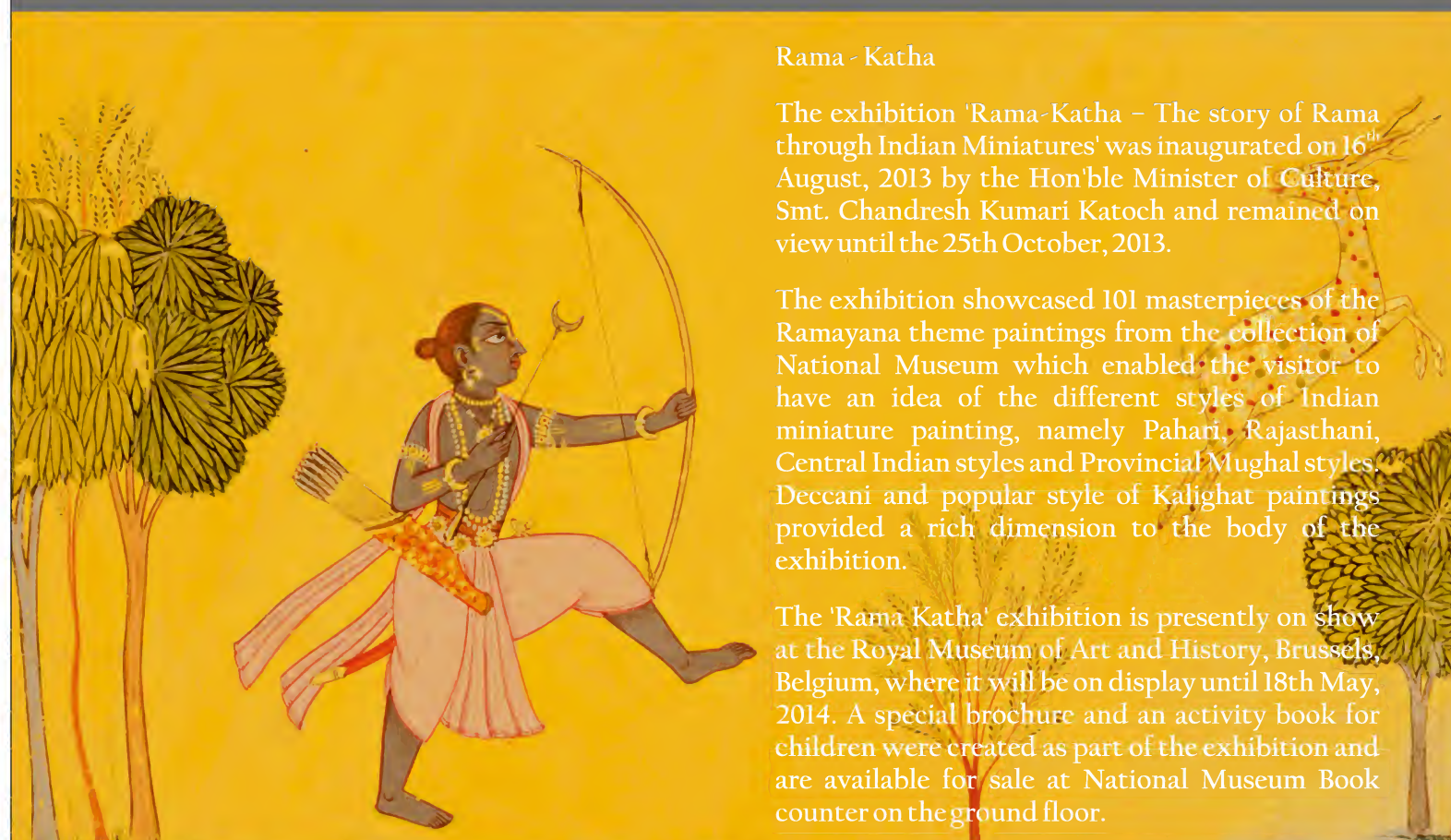
Safar-Nama: Journeys through a Kalamkari Hanging

The 'Safar-Nama: Journeys through a Kalamkari Hanging' explored a unique textile that represents the formation of European taste in relation to demand for Indian textiles during the early 17th Century. A painted fabric in the *kalamkari* tradition, where *kalam* (pen made of bamboo) is used for painting the fabric traveled from the Coromandel Coast, South India to its current location in the French city of Mulhouse at the Museum of Printed Textiles, in France.

The hanging, full of depictions of plants and animals which reveal layers of memory associated with the symbolism and cultural ethos of different geographical areas, knit together elements of the *Chintz* (printed multi colored cotton fabric with a glazed finish made for the European market), with many elements from miniature painting and murals. The piece also depicted artistic features of Persian, Thai, Chinese, Japanese and Malay manifestations along with an affinity with paintings of the *Tilism* (Fantasy) category found in the Mughal, Persian and Deccani schools.

Considering the delicate nature of the artifact, this exhibition was based not on the fabric, but on high resolution digital prints of the original. These detailed images showed the cultural and artistic complexity that makes this hanging an extremely unique and valuable object. The Exhibition commenced on 30th March 2013 and was on show until the 10th April 2013.

Exhibitions



Rama Hunting the Golden Deer Marich, Shangri Ramayana Folio, Mandi Style, Pahari, National Museum

'Anywhere out of the World'

Fifteen French photographers participated in the Delhi Photo Festival in 2013 with the help of the Government of France. The exhibition, 'Anywhere out of World', by Pascal Monteil, revisited through photography, painting and mixed media, Persian and Indian miniature traditions, perpetuating this art, in all that includes detail, ornamental profusion and spirituality.

The exhibition was on view till 11th October 2013 at National Museum and coincided with the Delhi Photo Festival being held at India Habitat Centre.

Rama - Katha

The exhibition 'Rama-Katha - The story of Rama through Indian Miniatures' was inaugurated on 16th August, 2013 by the Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch and remained on view until the 25th October, 2013.

The exhibition showcased 101 masterpieces of the Ramayana theme paintings from the collection of National Museum which enabled the visitor to have an idea of the different styles of Indian miniature painting, namely Pahari, Rajasthani, Central Indian styles and Provincial Mughal styles. Deccani and popular style of Kalighat paintings provided a rich dimension to the body of the exhibition.

The 'Rama Katha' exhibition is presently on show at the Royal Museum of Art and History, Brussels, Belgium, where it will be on display until 18th May, 2014. A special brochure and an activity book for children were created as part of the exhibition and are available for sale at National Museum Book counter on the ground floor.



An Excerpt from the work created by Pascal Monteil

Exhibitions



NATIONAL MUSEUM-New Delhi



The Yogini Exhibition

Return of the Yogini

National Museum and National Museum Institute organized an exhibition from 20th September till 6th October 2013 to mark the safe return of Yogini Vrishanana to India.

The sculpture of Yogini Vrishanana was taken to France illegally and acquired by the late art collector, Mr. Robert Schrimpf. Mrs. Martine Schrimpf informed the Embassy of India in Paris of her desire to donate the object. The Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch directed National Museum to bring back the sculpture. The Yogini returned safely to India in the month of August, 2013. Thereafter, a single object exhibition to celebrate the return of the yogini was organized.

The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch and Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid. The exhibition was jointly curated by Prof. Anupa Pande, Dean, National Museum Institute and Mr. J.E. Dawson, Curator (Archaeology), National Museum. It focused on the esoteric cult of the Yoginis as well as the menace of the illicit trafficking of antiquities and art treasures. The Yogini sculpture belongs to a site named Lokhari, a village in the Banda district in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. The exhibition is also aided by a documentary film on the Yogini sculptures at Lokhari.

Musical landscapes

'Musical ladsapes & The Goddess of Music: Recent Advances in Interactive Art' was a unique exhibition, bridging technology and culture and employing multimedia interactives to unravel the mystique of music by exploring its scientific, artistic and spiritual dimensions, and its reflections in the Goddess images across Asian cultures.

The exhibition was mounted by Ranjit Makkuni, a celebrated technical wizard and an accomplished musician. Dr Karan Singh, President, ICCR and Rajya Sabha member, inaugurated the exhibition on 28th November 2013.

The exhibition provided viewers an opportunity to enter into the world of Asian music through electronic installations, digital images and recordings of performances by maestros. The exhibition was flocked by hundreds of visitors every week and was well appreciated as a unique coming together of contemporary art at National Museum which is otherwise known for its classical pieces.

The Volunteer Guides facility was also extended to this exhibition which made the visit educative and fulfilling for visitors.



The Musical Landscapes Exhibition

Programmes at National Museum



Educational Activities

1. National Museum celebrated International Museum Day on 18th May, 2013. Gallery Talks by the Curators on "Kahaani Sikkon Ki", "Arms and Armour" and four special film shows on Rasikpriya were organized. On this occasion Painting Competition for School children was also organized.
2. Summer Holiday Programme "Know Your Museum" Arts and Crafts programme for school students and also for Physically Challenged and Visually Impaired students was organized from 6th to 24th June, 2013.
3. A special workshop on Brahmi Script for schools students was organized from 6th to 13th June, 2013.
4. An outreach programme for schools students was also organized at Civil Services Officers Institute from 17th June – 28th June 2013.
5. Organized Educational Tour for underprivileged children of the age group 8-15 years from an NGO called UDAAN ON 5th June, 2013.
6. Special Gallery Talks were organized for Centre for Cultural Research Training (CCRT) sponsored Teacher Educators on 1st June, 8th June, 6th July, and 31st August, 2013.

7. A Gallery Lecture was also organized on Decorative Arts titled 'Bhartiya Susajja Kala' by Dr. Anamika Pathak, Curator of the collection on 3rd August, 2013.

8. National Museum organized an Inter School Quiz competition from 23rd to 24th October, 2013.

9. National Museum organized a painting Competition on the theme of 'Our Heritage and objects of museum' for school children on 15th December, 2013. Nearly 700 children participated in the competition which was held at the central Rotunda. Winners were given prizes on the 19 January 2014. Eminent artists such as Arpana Caur were among the judges to choose the winners.



New Initiatives



NATIONAL MUSEUM-New Delhi



NM-Volunteer Guide Programme

The Volunteer Guide Programme called *Path-Pradarshak* was initiated in April 2013 to provide a personalized and educative experience to visitors of National Museum. National Museum put out a call in the public domain inviting interested people from diverse backgrounds to come and volunteer in this initiative. In an overwhelming response, nearly 600 applications were received and through a selection process batches of volunteers were selected and trained by experts at the National Museum to run the programme.

Today, several thousand visitors have already been taken around the museum by an army of more than 100 volunteers who regularly lead walks in the Museum. They also provide recommendations and suggestions for improvement of the Museum facilities from time to time which are welcome and push the Museum to perform better for visitors.

It is hoped that the spirit of volunteerism for museums as successfully displayed here becomes a template for other museums in the country as well.

The Facility is available every day:

Tuesday to Friday: 10:30 am and 2:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 10:30 am, 11:00 am, 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm

Yuva Saathi

On the same lines as the Volunteer Guide Programme, *Yuva Saathi* or the Young Volunteer Guide Programme was launched in August 2013, in National Museum. It is a pioneer programme in India aimed at engaging young minds in a dialogue with the objects of the Museum with the help of Young Volunteers.

The programme was designed by the National Museum Institute with a view to make National Museum a place of learning and fun for the young visitors and their teachers. *Yuva Saathis* have been trained specifically to guide children in the National Museum. The programme caters solely to School Groups in order to fulfil the specific needs of Young Visitors.

Over 54000 students have been led by the Young Volunteers till December 2013 through this programme. The guide service is available from Tuesdays to Sundays between 10 am and 4 pm. The service can be booked through the website of National Museum Institute and by providing details of the visit, number of students and their age group. School groups need to book at least a week in advance for the guided tour.

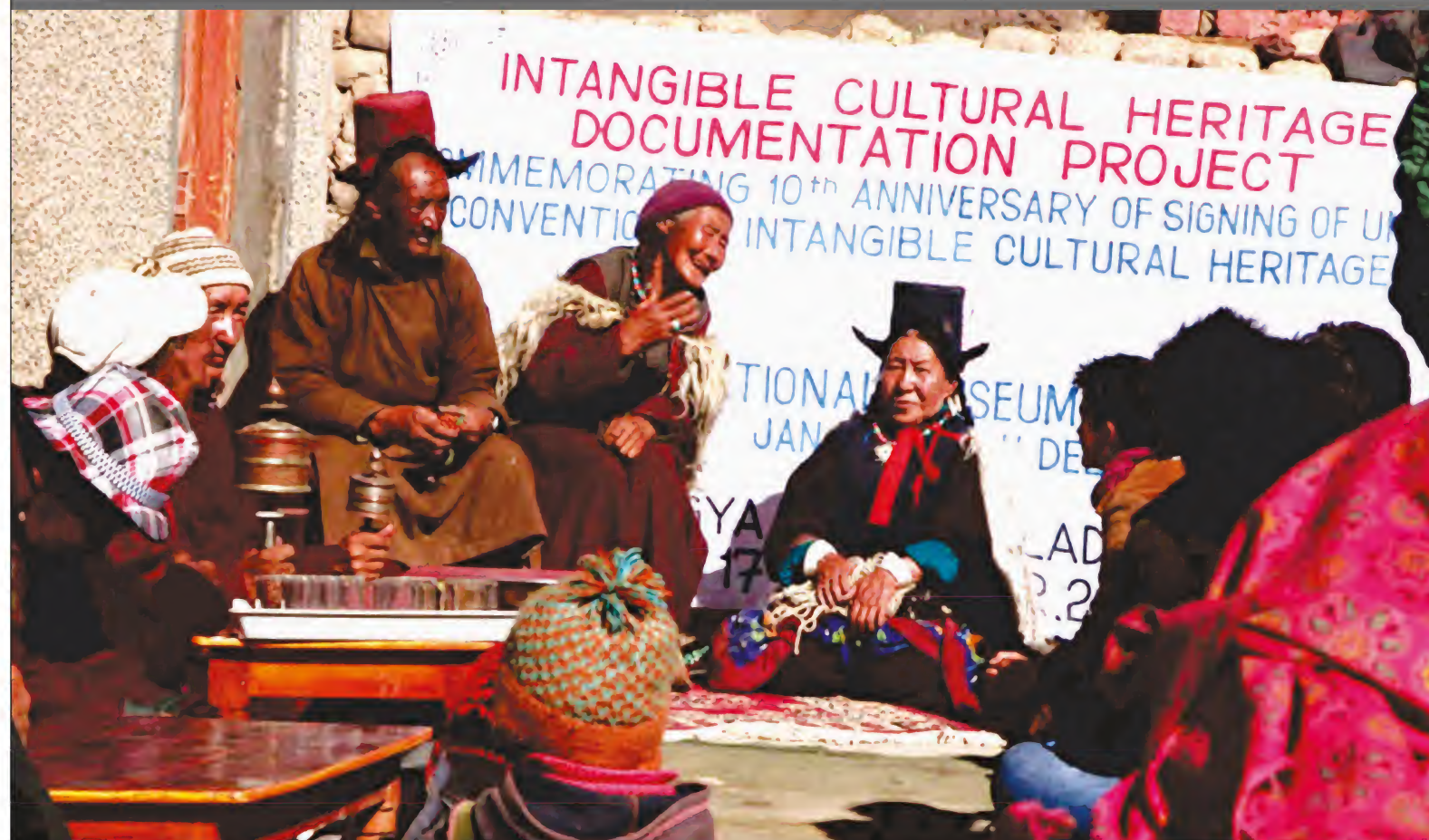
The Tour Departure Times are

Tuesday - Sunday: 10:30 am to 4:00 pm



Programmes

at National Museum Institute



The Department of Museology, NMI organized Story-telling and community led events in Ladakh, J&K and Western Uttar Pradesh

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of signing of convention for the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO) a day-long community-led event was organized at field site: Gya, Ladakh and Sikheda Village, Western Uttar Pradesh on 17th of October, 2013.

In Gya, Ladakh, Five village elders were identified as part of the ICH documentation Project. They were involved in the story-telling workshop as they have significant knowledge and experience in social and cultural traditions such as rituals around Losar (Buddhist new year), stone carving, weaving, herbal medicinal practice and vernacular architecture.

15 students from SECMOL, (Student's Education and Cultural Movement of Ladakh) participated in this event. This team consisted of students from various parts of Ladakh and included some students from Gya.

A one day program of live creation of the living tradition of 'Sanjhi' in the village of Sikheda (western Uttar Pradesh) was organized on 17 October 2013.

'Sanjhi' is a design pattern consisting of traditional motifs created on certain ceremonies, festivals and life-cycle occasions. *Sanjhi* is a living traditional art form prevalent in Western Uttar Pradesh and also in other parts of India. There was a demonstration of the creation of the art form, and narration of stories, myths and legends associated with it. Following this, there was an interaction session among community members, school children and practitioners.



Sanjhi Ritual Object

Programmes

at National Museum Institute



NATIONAL MUSEUM-New Delhi



Workshop on Miniature Paintings

The Department of History of Art, National Museum Institute organized a five-day workshop on 'Indian Miniature Paintings' from 2nd – 6th September 2013. The aim of the workshop was to provide an understanding into the art of the miniature painting tradition to the young students of NMI, with a need to familiarize them about an important aspect of our cultural heritage.

For the workshop, national award winning artist, Shri. V. N. Agarwal, assisted by Ms. Shweta Agarwal, was invited to demonstrate and train the students in the tradition of Indian miniature paintings. During the workshop, the students were instructed by the artist on the various methods, techniques, style and the process involved to recreate a miniature painting.

Tenth Convocation of National Museum Institute

The National Museum Institute of History of Art, Culture and Museology New Delhi held its 10th Convocation on 7th June 2013. The NMI conferred 33 doctoral degrees and 152 masters degrees to its students. The Hon'ble Minister of Culture Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch, also the Chancellor of the Institute, presented the degrees at the Convocation at the Hotel Ashok. Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Dr Shashi Tharoor was the Guest of Honour at the function. The ceremony was attended by Culture Secretary (the then) Smt Sangita Gairola and National Museum Institute Vice-Chancellor Dr .V Venu. The Convocation was held after 7 years.



The History of Art department, NMI signed an MOU with the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture, Vietnam

The project proposes to prepare and publish a research catalogue of 50 sculptures from the collection of Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture in Vietnam.

The project will focus specifically on the development of Cham sculptures and its interface with the artistic tradition of India. The aim is to highlight the historic cross relations between India and Vietnam in the domain of art for a better understanding of the shared history of the two countries. The methodology would focus on the identification and iconography of the sculptures.



Publications



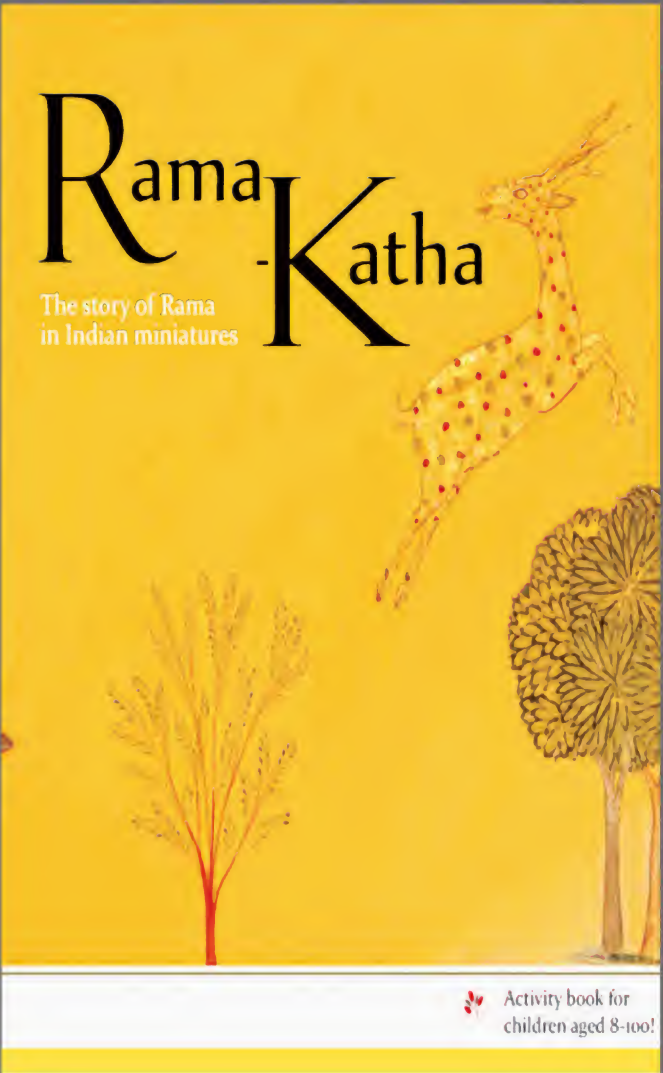
NATIONAL MUSEUM- New Delhi

Rama- Katha: The Story of Rama in Indian Miniatures

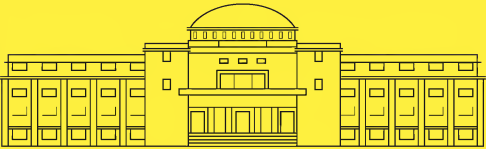
Rama-Katha, the story of Rama through Indian Miniatures is an activity book for children based on the Ramayana miniatures. On each page a miniature from the exquisite collection of National Museum has been depicted and children can write their own Ramayana by looking at them and with the help of simple clues.

The format is simple and encourages children to appreciate miniatures and express their ideas in simple language.

It is priced economically at Rs. 50 per copy.



The Museum in 90-Minutes



NATIONAL MUSEUM- New Delhi

The Museum in 90-Minutes

After a long wait, National Museum has produced a brochure titled 'the Museum in 90 minutes'.

The brochure is free for visitors and is available in English and Hindi. It has a detailed museum map and 25 highlight objects spread across galleries on all three levels.

The brochure will provide the viewer with a possibility to see the museum and not miss its masterpieces even if there is short time at hand.

The Brochure together with the Volunteer Guide Programmes are aimed at enriching the visitor experience.



"The emphasis is on placing the human body in the social context of the journey of man, and woman, through the period of existence in worldly plane.

The exhibition attempts to show that Indian creativity has grappled with both the interior world of the body as well as its physical reality through sections dealing with creation and birth, death, aniconism, the body in the cosmos, the body ideal as seen in supernatural, heroic and ascetic contexts and the sheer rapture of experiencing the body through all our senses."

Dr. Karan Singh
President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations
(Excerpt from the publication on the Exhibition
'The Body in Indian Art and Thought' at BOZAR, Brussels
published by Europolia India, Brussels and Ludion, Antwerp)